

NOTES ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF LEUCOSPERMUM R.BR. PART I.

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(*Compton Herbarium, Kirstenbosch*)

ABSTRACT

Eight new combinations in *Leucospermum* are proposed. *Leucospermum bolusii* Gandoger is an earlier name for *L. album* Bond, and *L. bolusii* Phillips is synonymous with *L. cordifolium* (Salisb. ex Knight) Fourcade.

During the course of revising *Leucospermum* it has become apparent that several changes in nomenclature are necessary. This paper sets out to publish some of the new combinations that must be made in order to bring the nomenclature of *Leucospermum* up to date, and to draw attention to those names and combinations already published, which have been overlooked in the past.

Leucospermum cuneiforme (Burm. f.) Rourke, comb. nov.

Leucadendron cuneiforme Burm. f., Fl. Cap. Prodr.: 4 (1768)—basionym.

Leucospermum attenuatum R.Br. in Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. **10**: 96 (1810).

N. L. Burman described *Leucadendron cuneiforme* in his "Florae Capensis Prodomus", p. 4 (published as a supplement to his Flora Indica), as follows: "*foliis ovato-cuneiformibus scabriusculis, apice calloso tricuspidato, capitulis terminalibus sericeis.*" From the description of the leaves it was established that the plant described was a *Leucospermum*, the identity of which has always been uncertain. Phillips and Hutchinson did not examine the Burman herbarium when they monographed the Proteaceae for the Flora Capensis, and so they listed this species under the genus *Leucadendron* as "imperfectly known".

During the latter half of 1966 I was able to examine the Proteaceae in the Burman herbarium, when this collection was sent on loan to Kirstenbosch. Although unlabelled, it was not difficult to pick out the type of *L. cuneiforme* as it is the only Proteaceous plant newly described by Burman in 1768, and represented in his herbarium, that has tridentate cuneiform leaves, since all the other species described by him have entire leaves. Moreover, in the brief type description, the diagnostic phrase "apice tricuspidato" is used, and in the equally brief description on the sheet (in Burman's own hand) he uses the words



PLATE I.

Holotype of *Leucospermum cuneiforme* (Burm. f.) Rourke in the Burman collection, Herb. Delessert, Conservatoire et Jardin Botanique, Geneva (G).

“apice trifido”. This concurrence of the diagnostic character mentioned in both the type description and in the note on the sheet is clear proof that the specimen in question is indeed the type of *Leucadendron cuneiforme* Burm. f.

Leucospermum vestitum (Lam.) Rourke, comb. nov.

Protea vestita Lam., Encycl. Meth. Bot. Illustr. **1**: 239 (1792)—basionym.

Leucospermum medium R.Br. in Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. **10**: 97 (1810).

Leucospermum incisum Phillips in Kew Bull. **1910**: 331 (1910).

Leucospermum alpinum (Salisb. ex Knight) Rourke, comb. nov.

Protea alpina Salisb. ex Knight in Knight, Cult. Prot.: 27 (1809)—basionym.

Leucadendron cartilagineum R.Br. in Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. **10**: 67 (1810).

Leucospermum cartilagineum (R.Br.) Phillips, in Dyer Fl. Cap. **5** (1): 636 (1912).

The academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia (PH), possesses a considerable number of specimens of South African Proteaceae collected at the Cape by James Niven, 1798–1803. Two isotype sheets of *Leucospermum alpinum* were discovered in this collection when it was on loan to Kirstenbosch in 1966. Both bear tickets in Niven’s hand one of which reads “*Protea* 3 or 4 ft high on the high peak of Khamiesberg”. This phrase is used verbatim in the type description and must have been copied word for word from Niven’s field ticket.

Leucospermum saxatile (Salisb. ex Knight) Rourke, comb. nov.

Leucadendrum saxatile Salisb. ex Knight in Knight, Cult. Prot.: 58 (1809)—basionym.

Leucospermum diffusum R.Br. in Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. **10**: 104 (1810).

Leucospermum gracile (Salisb. ex Knight) Rourke, comb. nov.

Leucadendrum gracile Salisb. ex Knight in Knight, Cult. Prot.: 59 (1809)—basionym.

Leucospermum stenanthum Schlechter in Bot. Jahb. **27**: 112 (1900).

Leucospermum truncatulum (Salisb. ex Knight) Rourke, comb. nov.

Leucadendrum truncatulum Salisb. ex Knight in Knight, Cult. Prot.: 61 (1809)—basionym.

Leucospermum buxifolium R.Br. in Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. **10**: 100 (1810).

Leucospermum heterophyllum (Thunb.) Rourke, comb. nov.

Protea heterophylla Thunb., Diss. Prot.: 24 (1781)—basionym.

Leucospermum patulum R.Br. in Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. **10**: 100 (1810).

Leucospermum truncatum (Meisn.) Rourke, comb. nov. et stat. nov.

Leucospermum truncatum Buck, in Drège, Zwei Pfl. Docum.: 123, 199 (1843) nom nud.



PLATE 3.

Isotype of *Leucospermum alpinum* (Salisb. ex Knight) Rourke in the herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia (PH).

Leucospermum zeyheri Meisn. var. *truncatum* Meisn. in DC., Prodr. **14**: 256 (1856)—basionym.

Buek applied the name *Leucospermum truncatum* to a collection made by Drège on the limestone hills between Cape Agulhas and Potteberg. As no description was published, *L. truncatum* Buek is a nomen nudum. Several years later, Meisner adopted the epithet "truncatum" for a variety of *Leucospermum zeyheri* Meisn., citing Buek's nomen nudum and giving a complete latin description. In 1901, Gandoger published a description of "*Leucospermum truncatum* β. *septemdentatum* Gandoger". (In Bull. Soc. Bot. Fr. **48**: 95 1901). However, the binomial *Leucospermum truncatum* was used without any reference to a previously published description or diagnosis and therefore cannot be regarded as having been validly published under article 32 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. Consequently, this has necessitated the making of the above combination.

THE CORRECT APPLICATION OF THE NAME *LEUCOSPERMUM BOLUSII*,

There has been some confusion regarding the correct application of the name *Leucospermum bolusii*. A collection made by Bolus at Gordon's Bay was described as *Leucospermum bolusii* by Gandoger in 1901. (*Bolus* 8077, isotype in BOL). Phillips (Fl. Cap. **5** (1): 634 1912), failed to recognise this very distinct species and included it in the synonymy of *Leucospermum puberum* (L.) R.Br. Consequently, when further material was collected from Gordon's Bay, Bond (1941), thinking this species to be unnamed, described it as *Leucospermum album* Bond. (Mathews NBG 1327/29, holotype in NBG).

Leucospermum bolusii Phillips, described in 1910, is synonymous with *L. cordifolium* (Salisb. ex Knight) Fourcade, and is in any case an illegitimate name and must be rejected since it is a later homonym of *L. bolusii* Gandoger.

Leucospermum bolusii Gandoger in Bull. Soc. Bot. Fr. **48**: 95 (1901).

Leucospermum album Bond, in J. S. Afr. Bot. **7**: 200 (1941).

Leucospermum cordifolium (Salisb. ex Knight) Fourcade, in Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Afr., **21**: 97 (1932).

Leucadendrum cordifolium Salisb. ex Knight in Knight, Cult. Prot.: 54 (1809).

Leucospermum nutans R.Br. in Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. **10**: 98 (1810).

Leucospermum bolusii Phillips, in Kew Bull. **1910**: 330 (1910)—nom. illegit.

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